

FOCUS ON THE FIRST

MONTHLY CONSTITUENT NEWSLETTER

COUNCILMAN CHRIS FORD—1ST COUNCIL DISTRICT
LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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FIREFIIGHTERS CELEBRATE PROGRESS, ACHIEVEMENTS AT AWARDS BANQUET



I was fortunate to be one of several Council Members who attended the annual Fire & Emergency Services Awards Banquet on February 22nd. Approximately 470 persons came out to salute the many achievements by members of the Fire Department during 2013.

In his address to the audience, Fire Chief Keith Jackson set aside his prepared remarks, and offered an impromptu, heart-felt speech. "Everyone Matters" was the message Chief Jackson expressed, his reference to each of the 550 sworn & civilian members who make up the Division of Fire & Emergency Services.

A highlight of the banquet was the special recognition of the historical achievements made in the areas of racial & gender diversity at the Fire Department. Please find the names of African-American pioneers, as well as trailblazers in women leadership, listed below:

African-Americans Firefighters: Lieutenant John Drake (Ret.); late Captain James Best, Jr. (Ret.); Major Mike Horton (Ret.); Assistant Chief William Swope, Jr. (Ret.); and Chief Keith Jackson.

Women Firefighters: former Firefighter Lisa Daly; late Lieutenant Brenda Cowan; former Firefighter Melissa Flynn-McClain; Captain Brenda Travis (Ret.); and Assistant Chief Kristin Chilton.

Congrats to all of the 2014 awardees & nominees. For more information and descriptions of the 2014 Award Winners, please contact Assistant Chief Joseph Best at jbest@lexingtonky.gov or (859) 231-5661.



Fire Chief Keith Jackson, Asst. Chief Kristin Chilton, Capt. Brenda Travis (Ret.), Firefighter Melissa Flynn-McClain (Ret.) and Firefighter Lisa Daley (Ret.) at 2014 Awards Banquet.



Mayor Jim Gray, Councilman Chris Ford, Lieutenant John Drake (Ret.) and Fire Chief Keith Jackson at his installation ceremony in 2012.



Chris Ford
Councilman, 1st District

MARCH CALENDAR:

- 1—Great American Cleanup Begins (through July 31)
- 13—1st District Neighborhood Leaders Meeting (*Oakwood Park Shelter*) 6:00pm
- 20—Council Meeting (Government Bldg) 6:00pm
- March 21-April 7—Council Spring Recess (No Standing Meetings Held)
- March 31-April 4—Fayette County Public Schools Spring Break

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2014 PROFILES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MEET SALLY HAMILTON CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



Sally Hamilton, Chief
Administrative Officer

In the 39 years since the city-county merger which created the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, there had not been a woman to serve as the city's top appointed official. That changed, and history was made, when Sally Hamilton was named as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Mayor Jim Gray appointed Sally Hamilton as CAO in January 2013. She has more than 30 years of public sector experience, including leadership posts with the Kentucky Authority for Educational Television, and the Kentucky Office of State Auditor.

Sally arrived to LFUCG in December 2011, as the Commissioner of General Services. During her time

in General Services, Sally's guidance was instrumental in the redevelopment of the Charles Young Center, and formation of its Advisory Board.

The Chief Administrative Officer ensures the policies established by the Mayor, Council and Urban County Charter are followed. Commissioners of each city department reports to the CAO.

Lexington is fortunate to have such a dedicated & accessible public administrator leading the delivery of government services to our citizens. I'm honored to work with Sally at City Hall. And it's great that Sally is a downtown, 1st District resident as well.

FEMALE COUNCIL MEMBERS HOLD PLACE IN LEXINGTON HISTORY

In January 2013, I began my second term as 1st District Councilman. I was also joined in office by a record number of women Council Members. Currently, six (6) women serve on Urban County Council. Led by Vice Mayor Linda Gorton, my colleagues demonstrate a diversity of leadership in our local government, and the progressive spirit of our city. The current group of six (6) female Council Members ties a record, which dates back to the 1994-1996 Council. In observance of Women's History Month, I salute you Council Members!



The six women of the current Urban County Council are: Jennifer Scutchfield (7th Dist.), Jennifer Mossotti (9th Dist.), Vice Mayor Linda Gorton, Peggy Henson (11th Dist.), Shevawn Akers (2nd Dist.) and Diane Lawless (3rd Dist.—not pictured). [Photo Source: Lexington-Herald Leader, January 2013]

Reminder

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS MEETING MARCH 13TH—OAKWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

The *1st District Neighborhood Association Leaders Meeting* originally scheduled for late February was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Nevertheless, we have promptly rescheduled the meeting and the location has changed!

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

6:00—7:00 PM

OAKWOOD SHELTER (Neighborhood Center)

1050 BRIARWOOD DRIVE

The Oakwood subdivision is the first entrance past Nandino Boulevard off Georgetown Road. Turn on Briarwood Drive and continue driving straight. The park/shelter entrance is at the dead-end of street.

The topic of the meeting will be community project updates. We hope to see you there!



NEW SIDEWALK CONNECTS RAND AVE. & ELM TREE LANE

I'm glad to provide an update to residents who recently petitioned against the closure of a heavily traveled pathway in the East End. The newly-constructed sidewalk stretches from Elm Tree Lane (500 block) and Rand Avenue. While the sidewalk has been repaired and will be maintained by LFUCG, efforts are still on — going to improve lighting and visibility in this area.

Pedestrian mobility & accessibility is important to Lexington neighborhoods. Thanks to the concerned East End citizens who advocated for this needed improvement. I'm proud our Council & administration were able to support this project.



RUPP ARENA REDESIGN UNVEILED; COUNCIL AWAITS MORE FINANCING DETAILS



Governor Steve Beshear and Mayor Jim Gray recently released the design for a "reinvented Rupp Arena." The hope is that the renovation to Rupp and the Lexington Convention Center will be a catalyst for urban renewal in downtown Lexington.

The design includes upgrades to Rupp & the convention center that include the following:

- ◆ Chair back seats throughout the arena
- ◆ New center hung scoreboard
- ◆ Upgraded Wi-Fi
- ◆ Outdoor screens
- ◆ Expanded concourse spaces

The convention center expansion will add approximately 100,000 square feet to the facility.

The total cost of the arena and expanded convention center is estimated at \$310

million. The Mayor is currently working on a financial plan with various partners to complete the project.

Gov. Beshear has also included \$65 million for the renovation in his budget plan recently sent to the General Assembly.

Future plans also include building Town Branch Park. This will serve as a public park and green space in what is currently the Cox Street parking lot behind Rupp.

For additional information on the project and to see photos / models of the district, visit www.ruppdistrict.com.



CITY JOINS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2014

Lexington is one of the nation's ten local governments chosen to participate in the 2014 Code for America program. Code for America is a non-profit organization that partners with local governments to find new approaches to resolving local challenges through technology.

This year, Lexington has three outstanding technology fellows who will work out of Lexington and San Francisco, California. During their year-long fellowship they will use data to build media apps, improve programs & maps and create bet-

ter forms of communication between government and the community

These three spent the month visiting with local neighborhood associations, businesses, organizations and various government divisions to familiarize themselves with current issues.

We wish them well during their fellowship and look forward to seeing how they'll be able to help government better connect with its citizens. Welcome Code for America fellows and good luck!



Lexington Code for America Fellows:

Lyzi Diamond—Geographic Information Systems Analyst, writer & developer

Livien Yin—Developer & web designer

Erik Schwartz—Developer



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THE NEW AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Today's neighborhood and homeowners' associations understand the importance of communication between their neighbors and getting information out to their members. Thanks to today's technology, many associations are taking full advantage of the benefits of social media websites. Sites such as Facebook, Twitter & Nextdoor allow residents to post information about their neighborhoods, such as: meetings, new members/residents, events, crime reports, fundraising efforts and other content.

The 1st District Office would like to know what's going on in your neighborhood. Does your association have a website or social media page? If so, we'd like to add you as a friend, like your page or follow you. Please send us your social media information and we'll do just that! Let's stay in communication; it's the key to building safer, better neighborhoods.



Instagram



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON ACADEMY 5TH GRADERS ADVOCATE FOR DOUGLASS PARK AT CITY HALL

Last month Council Chambers was full, but not with its normal government staffers and public constituents. Approximately 75 fifth graders from Booker T. Washington Intermediate Academy came to City Hall to present proposals before their two Urban County Council Members, Chris Ford & Shevawn Akers (District 2).

Twelve of the students presented on behalf of their classmates, from three different classes, about how they would make improvements to their neighboring park, Douglass Park. The students proposed one of the following additions or improvements to the park:

- ◆ Soccer field
- ◆ New modern playground equipment (including equipment for youth with disabilities)
- ◆ Go Kart Track
- ◆ Dog Park

After calling for a vote, the majority of students were in support of adding a Go Kart Track to the park.

At that time, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director Chris Cooperrider gave remarks. He thanked the students for the proposals and said he would take their recommendations back to his Director and Advisory Board. Mr. Cooperrider agreed that Douglass Park is in need of improvements and believes that some of the student's suggestions can be implemented in the future.

